Fire in oil wells of ONGC

†2357. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of out break of fire in oil wells of ONGC taken place during the last year and the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of loss of life and property incident-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to check the recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Following two incidents of fire occurred in well of ONGC during the last year:—

1. BHN fire incident at Mumbai High (MH) Asset.

2. PSAR#39 well blowout at Rajahmundry Asset.

Reasons:—

BHN Fire:—The ONGC's Multipurpose Support Vessel (MSV) Samundra Suraksha, under SCI operation, collided with the BHN Process Platform on 27th July 05 resulting in instantaneous fire in the oil and gas line riser, setting the platform ablaze.

PSAR#39 well blow out: Blow out occurred due to the gushing of free gas from the well during drilling due to imbalance in the well.

BHN Fire:—11 persons died and 11 are missing. An approximate loss of 350 million US$ has been estimated in this regard.

PSAR#39 Well Blow Out:

Loss of the Rs. 14.50 crores has been estimated.

(c) As regards BHN fire, ONGC has taken the following steps to check recurrence of such incidents:—

1. Review and upgradation of Marine Procedures.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

2. The reivew of Engineering design through International Engineering Consultant M/s Mustang. Based on the report, action plan has been drawn to provide further safeguards to the Offshore structures.

As regard PSAR#39 well blow out, following steps have been taken by ONGC to avoid recurrence of such incidents:—

ONGC Crisis Management Team, duly trained by experts in India and abroad and strengthened with the state of art equipments, takes immediate necessary action.

Drilling crew gets Well Control Training at an interval of every two years. Personnel and equipment response for such emergency has been speedened up.

Development of Nandi Hills in Karnataka

2358. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has requested the State Government of Karnataka to send the detailed plans and estimates relating to its proposal to take up overall development of Nandi Hills including the ropeway in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the State Government of Karnataka has sent the detailed plans and estimates to the Centre; and

(c) whether the Central Government has received the detailed plans, if so, the action, if any, taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The State Government of Karnataka submitted a project proposal for Integrated development of Nandi Hills (including Ropeway) to the Ministry of Tourism on 18.11.2004 for an amount of Rs. 3346.00 lakh under Large Revenue Generating Scheme. After examination of the proposal, the Ministry of Tourism requested the State Government of Karnataka to forward documents like Form 'C', detailed cost estimates as per CPWD/ PWD schedule of rates, Land availability certificate, etc. which are required as per guidelines of the Scheme.

(c) However no reply has been received from the State Government so far.